

serve, released a report documenting voter suppression following the Shelby decision. We detailed the ongoing onslaught on our freedom to vote.

To those that claim that voting is already accessible to all, read the report, open your eyes to the experience of minority communities who face endless barriers to the ballot box.

After Latinos, Native Americans, and Black Americans voted in historic numbers, State legislators moved to restrict voting in State after State. We have a constitutional duty to act. We must pass H.R. 4 to restore the promise and power of the Voting Rights Act.

Madam Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to join us. Taking away equal access to the polls and defending voter suppression is not partisan, it is un-American.

HONORING MARY SUE MIXON

(Mr. FERGUSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding woman of God, Mrs. Mary Sue Mixon. Mrs. Mixon will celebrate her retirement as a distinguished Sunday school teacher at the Mountain Gap Church in The Rock, Georgia.

Mary Sue Mixon is a native of Pike County, Georgia, and has taught Sunday school classes for adults, preteens, and primary classes for over 40 years. Beyond simply reading her weekly lessons to the fourth through sixth grade students, she has dedicated herself to sharing the full knowledge, love, and relationship she has with Christ, and has enabled countless others to walk with Him.

Mary Sue is a revered teacher and a humble community leader, but above all, she is a faithful servant of God. She has achieved so much in her life, but none of it would be possible without the grace of the Lord, and the love and support of her family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today, along with the congregation of Mountain Gap Church, and the residents of Georgia's Third Congressional District, in extending our sincerest congratulations to Mary Sue Mixon on this joyous occasion.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, the Build Back Better agenda is simple, it tackles the biggest challenges facing working families by investing in what Americans need, from physical infrastructure to education and child care.

The feedback from my constituents has been clear, they need a hard infrastructure bill, but we can't stop there. Pennsylvania has more than 3,000 bridges and 7,500 miles of highway in

poor condition. The infrastructure bill includes \$11 billion for our highways and the largest bridge investment since we built the interstate highway system. It will provide good jobs and lower costs to businesses.

But we can't stop with roads and bridges if we want America to succeed in the 21st century. Most Pennsylvanians can't afford quality child care. The budget resolution would provide access to safe, reliable, high-quality care. We need to rebuild our public schools and construct affordable housing. We need to lower prescription drug costs and expand Medicare to include dental, hearing, and vision.

Each of these investments will help working families and allow everyone, not just the rich, to participate in the 21st century economy.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to passing this historic legislation.

RECOGNIZING COLTON GRIFFIN

(Mr. FEENSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colton Griffin, a third grader from Merville, Iowa. After his classmate and friend, Hope, passed away in a tragic accident, Colton wanted to make sure her bucket calf still made it to the fair.

That is when he came up with this great idea to have his whole class help show her calf, Taffy. I had the pleasure of meeting Colton, and his dad, Cody, at the Iowa State Fair last week, and they truly embody "Iowa Nice."

Supporting our friends and neighbors in tough times is one of the things that makes Iowa so special. With a heart that big, I know Colton is going to do great things.

Madam Speaker, may God bless Colton and his friend, Hope, and her family. May God bless.

SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

(Ms. WEXTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise in gratitude for the service and sacrifice of the brave troops, diplomats, aid workers, and others who served in Afghanistan over the last 20 years, and for those who are still there on the ground working heroically to defend and evacuate American civilians and our Afghan partners.

Madam Speaker, I remain deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, and I am calling on the administration to use every available tool to ensure that we not only protect and evacuate American personnel, but as many of our Afghan partners as possible.

I applaud the administration for picking up the pace of evacuations over the weekend and for expanding the pe-

rimeter around the airport in Kabul in order to increase access for evacuees and to avoid the developing humanitarian crisis.

But we cannot stop there. Thousands more are at risk, including journalists, women's rights activists, and NGO employees. I am calling on President Biden to establish a special humanitarian program specifically for these groups and other highly visible activists in Afghanistan; to increase processing capacity at USCIS; and to immediately ensure the safe exit from Afghanistan of all priority 1 and 2 visa holders to third countries.

Getting citizens out of harm's way must remain our top priority, but we also cannot abandon our Afghan allies.

DO NOT FORGET WHAT IS HAPPENING ON OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, obviously a lot is going on in America right now, and with all the focus on what is going on in Afghanistan, as well as the latest spending bills going through Congress, we are perhaps losing track of the thing that I think will have the biggest impact on America over the next few years.

I beg the American public and the American media not to lose sight of what is going on at our southern border. In the last couple of weeks, it has become apparent that, by an estimate, 105,000 people crossed over the border into that country as opposed to 80,000 in June; over a 30 percent increase in 1 month, almost entirely unremarked; of that is an estimated 15,000 unaccompanied minors, which is a human relations tragedy.

It is going to further increase the amount of illegal drugs in this country. Right now, 90,000 people a year are dying of illegal drugs. It is hard to believe that this time last year only an estimated 8,000 people were coming in the country, whereas, this July, again, we are at 105,000.

It should be banner headlines in any newspaper in this country when we go from about 10,000 people to 105,000 people per month.

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INVESTING IN CLIMATE RESILIENCY

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, the bipartisan infrastructure package makes important investments in our country's roads, bridges, high-speed internet, and clean water. But to fully deliver on our Democratic agenda, we must also pass a budget reconciliation bill that invests in a top priority for my district: climate resiliency.

Climate change is an ever-present danger to our constituents and communities. Just yesterday, a tropical storm made landfall in my district with intense winds of at least 47 miles per hour in southern New England. With communities at risk of flooding, property damage, and loss of life with increasingly harsh and dangerous storms, Congress must act.

Massachusetts is a leader in mitigating and combating climate change, but the Commonwealth cannot do it alone. I urge my colleagues to vote to pass both the Build Back Better Act and the bipartisan infrastructure bill to take the necessary steps to end climate change.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FAILING AT KEEPING AMERICA SAFE

(Mrs. MILLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, America is less safe today than when President Biden was sworn in 7 months ago.

Last week, as the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan, they released 5,000 al-Qaida and Taliban terrorists who are armed with \$85 billion of U.S. taxpayer-funded weapons as a result of the Biden administration's incompetent withdrawal. Our allies have lost respect for America, and our enemies do not fear us.

At the same time, Vice President Kamala Harris has left our southern border completely exposed and vulnerable for anyone to cross, and over 200,000 people are crossing each month. This is a national security disaster with dreadful future consequences.

But we shouldn't be surprised that Democrats are not concerned with public safety. They have been promoting defund the police and supporting soft-on-crime policies that have caused crime to skyrocket this past year.

The key role of government is to keep our families safe, and the Biden administration has failed miserably.

FIGHTING AGAINST GOP-LED VOTER DISCRIMINATION

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, as I stand here today, Republicans in the Texas State Legislature are rapidly advancing some of the most restrictive voting laws that we have seen in our Republic since the Voting Rights Act was passed in the 1960s.

That is why it is so important that we pass H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, because H.R. 4 will help us fight against this dangerous GOP-led anti-voter discrimination that we are seeing, discrimination against the very voters who have fueled growth in our State and who are allowing Texas to pick up two new seats after reapportionment.

It will help restore full protections of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 and re-implement the critically needed VRA preclearance provision to focus on States with a recent history of discrimination, like the State that I live in. It is a State that has consistently pushed racially charged anti-voter legislation that will allow everything from empowering partisan poll watchers to intimidating Texas voters to imposing criminal penalties.

We have to do something about this. Let's pass H.R. 4.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. HONG

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Mike Myungki Hong, a giant in the Korean-American community who exemplified the American Dream. He was a personal friend, a mentor, a visionary, and a very generous philanthropist who touched the lives of so many people.

Despite his success as an engineer and founder of Dura Coat Products, he was a very humble man who loved his wife, Lorrie, and his children very, very dearly. He spent his life giving back to his community and supporting the next generation of young leaders.

Dr. Hong dedicated his life to carrying on the legacy of Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, a leader of the Korean independence movement, with honesty, humility, integrity, and passion.

The Korean-American community and I are indebted to Dr. Hong for his service and dedication. I pray that Dr. Hong's love of our country and community continues to live through us, and I pray for God's peace for his family.

PRESIDENT ACCOUNTABLE FOR AFGHANISTAN DEBACLE

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the ongoing disaster in Afghanistan.

As a Vietnam-era veteran, I have seen the outcome of a poorly executed withdrawal, with tragic images of our allies hanging off of aircraft.

The scene that unfolded at Hamid Karzai Airport in Kabul last week is a betrayal to the American military, American citizens, our Afghan partners who aided American troops in the global war on terrorism, and the Afghan people.

The catastrophe that we have seen over the last few weeks was completely avoidable. We have watched as the Taliban quickly took control of the country, released terrorists from prison, and began implementing sharia law on those we left behind.

Just as important, we will have less safety of our homeland, and it will have lasting repercussions.

Madam Speaker, one of the most basic things you learn in the military is to never give your enemy the upper hand. We gave the Taliban the upper hand when we broadcast our withdrawal plans to the world but not to our allies and our coalition partners. The arbitrary and symbolic timeline the administration gave to get our troops out is during the peak of the fighting season.

The administration needs to take full responsibility for this debacle. They are making the decisions and need to be held accountable for those decisions. The President said that the buck stops with him, but he has continued to point fingers and blame others.

THANKING THE CAPITOL POLICE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank the Capitol Police and all of those who really created a miracle in the midst of a potential bomb threat just about a week ago here in the United States Capitol again, and to thank them for their astuteness and to recognize that, in spite of all of our commentary from our friends on the other side about the border, that the most serious threat here in the United States is domestic terrorism, and there evidenced an individual, whatever his condition was, wanting to bomb the Capitol.

I thank them for their honest and serious work and again credit them for their leadership.

Finally, let me say that as we move toward the Voting Rights Act, H.R. 4, it is crucial because Texas Democratic representatives will be here over the next 2 days, the same people who had a civil arrest and were stalked in their own State because they refused to go to a session that was nothing but denying rights to vote to Texans—minorities, ethnic minorities, language minorities, denying them the right to vote. H.R. 4 is crucial.

I thank them for their bravery and their service.

Let's get on with passing H.R. 4.

PRESIDENT EMBOLDENED TALIBAN

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Madam Speaker, the Taliban is emboldened today. They have found a new reason to cry "death to America." That reason is Joe Biden.

His foreign policy is not America first; it is Taliban first.

Mr. President, listen carefully, and I will say it slowly just for you: No man left behind. That is leadership.

Here is my pledge to the Taliban: You may chant "death to America" today, but mark my words, the levers of power will be in strong hands soon. If you harm an American, we will rain